

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

30 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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- 25X1A9a 1. I have just had the second of three conferences with Mr. [REDACTED] since his return from Chinese language training at the State Department language school on Taiwan, where he has been stationed for the past 20 months. The first of these talks with [REDACTED] took place Tuesday afternoon (21 October 1958), the second on Thursday (23 October 1958), and the final meeting took place this afternoon (27 October 1958). The first talk with [REDACTED] took place in the presence of [REDACTED] Assistant Personnel Officer, ORR, as did the second. The third meeting this afternoon included Mr. [REDACTED] Personnel Officer, ORR. 25X1A9a
- 25X1A9a 2. The first talk with [REDACTED] was necessarily brief since it was interrupted at the request of AD/RR due to the arrival of Mr. [REDACTED]. However, we did get far enough in that talk for the following points to be made: 25X1A9a
- 25X1A9a a. [REDACTED] greatly enjoyed his training on Taiwan and felt that he had profited from it. However, he stated that he thought it was a mistake to send ORR people there since the accent in the school on Taiwan includes heavy emphasis on speaking as well as reading whereas the interests of ORR call only for a reading knowledge of the language.
- 25X1A9a b. I described to [REDACTED] the nature of the proposed assignment upon his re-entry to ORR which would be in the Consumer Welfare Branch of D/A.
- 25X1A9a c. [REDACTED] stated quite forcefully that he did not wish to return to ORR because he thought that in so doing he would lose most of his mastery of spoken Chinese. I was taking my departure at this point but I did pause long enough to remark that we had been aware through DD/P that [REDACTED] had been seeking assignment with the DD/P while he was still on Taiwan. 25X1A9a

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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3. The second meeting took up where the first left off and revolved about the problem of whether or not [REDACTED] would return to ERA/RR. I explained to [REDACTED] that the problem was a straight-forward one as far as he was concerned. I reminded him that at the time of his departure I had told him that making him available for external language training represented an investment on the part of OHR and that as a responsible official of OHR I felt that this component had a right to expect to realize a return on the investment - in short that I expected him to return to ERA/RR at the end of his tour of training and give us the benefit of, say, two years of service with his increased Chinese language capability. I also reminded him that he had agreed at that time that this was a reasonable attitude on the part of OHR and that he had shown no hesitation to agreeing to this commitment. Accordingly, against the background of this sort of oral agreement, the question was simply whether he [REDACTED] planned to keep his part of the bargain now that we had done ours. I went on to say that while I sympathized with his concern over getting rusty in spoken Chinese that I felt that he should regard his proposed assignment in OHR as an opportunity to expand his knowledge of the Chinese community and of the Chinese economy and to further his professional competence as a student of Chinese affairs. This, of course, assumed that he was interested in becoming more than merely a linguist.

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[REDACTED] reiterated his concern about possible loss of some of his language facility, agreed that he had made such a commitment as that I had described, but went on to say that he simply felt he could not be expected to live up to the commitment. My reaction to this was essentially negative although not unfriendly and I told him that he had, so far as I could see, two alternatives: he could either return to OHR in the assignment which we proposed for him, or not. In response to his question whether I would release his file for perusal by the DD/P or some other component of the Agency I replied in the negative. I also told him that I did not wish to drag this decision out and that I expected an early indication from him as to his future course of action. It was agreed that we would hear from him again early in the following week.

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In addition to the foregoing points I suggested to [REDACTED] that it would do his record no good, nor his own self respect, to back out of an agreement presumably entered into in good faith. At the same time I tried to reassure him that after a couple years with us we would, if he still desired to, assist him in obtaining a transfer to other duties possibly with the DD/P. At this point [REDACTED] brought in the consideration that the most rapid loss of language competence occurred in the first 18 months after which there tended to be, according to the language training people, very little further erosion.

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] went on to say that in any case, even if [REDACTED] were to go to the DD/P now, it would be at least 18 months before he could expect to be assigned to field duty since the DD/P subjects its professional employees to extensive training. [REDACTED] pointed out what we were talking about was the difference between a possible field appointment in 1½ to two years as against the possibility of such an appointment in 3½ years and that since most of the damage would be done in any event within 1½ years the difference would not be too great so far as language proficiency was concerned.

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4. A [REDACTED] request I met with him again this afternoon (27 October 1958), accompanied by [REDACTED]. He stated without preamble that over the weekend he had come to a decision and that the decision was to stay with ORR and accept the kind of an assignment I recommended. He asked that I review again the nature of this assignment, which I did. I pointed out that it seemed to me that from all points of view this sort of assignment would be the best possible solution since it would meet a need on the part of the Area and would at the same time offer the best available opportunity for continuing work on the Chinese language press plus an opportunity to stay closely informed of economic policies and developments throughout the Chinese economy as they affected the consumer sector. [REDACTED] agreed that this sort of an assignment seemed to make sense and I told him that I would arrange for him to talk in greater detail with his Division and Branch Chiefs at an early date. [REDACTED] asked about promotion possibilities and my response was that his further promotion would depend on his own demonstrated qualifications. I explained the standards and responsibilities of the GS-13 level as distinct from the GS-12 level and told [REDACTED] that I anticipated if he really put his whole effort into the job and would not succumb to the temptation of "fighting the problem," that he would easily be able to demonstrate his competence within the course of 10 or 12 months.

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[REDACTED] stated that he had made his decision to return with no reservations and that he would, in his own words, "do his damndest." It will take a couple days apparently, according to [REDACTED] to arrange for [REDACTED] to be briefed back into the Special Center. Subject to this qualification plus the necessity to return briefly to Connecticut to collect his family he will be available for early service. I told him that I was personally, as well as managerially, glad that he had come to this decision and expressed my confidence in his ability to make good at it provided he gives the job his best effort and attention.

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[REDACTED]
Acting Chief, Economic Research Area, ORR~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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P.S. As of Wednesday, 29 October 1958, a new possibility has opened up for [REDACTED] assignment, namely as a replacement for [REDACTED] in the Services Division Construction Branch. [REDACTED] has been the China and Far East Construction man, supervising one GS-11 analyst. [REDACTED] has gone to talk to [REDACTED] and will report back to me as to his personal preference.

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P.P.S. On Friday, 31 October 1958, [REDACTED] informed me of his preference for assignment to the Construction Branch. I concurred in this and appropriate action is being taken by Services Division.

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